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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a proposal by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany aiming at a solution to the Kosovo crisis, which was made public on 14 April 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-10799 (E) 150499

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Annex

Kosovo Peace Plan

1. Step 1

A ministerial meeting of the Group of eight agrees that the list of demands to Belgrade worked up by the Dresden meeting of the Group of eight Political Directors is to be turned into a Security Council resolution.

The following points would be determined:

- The time for the start of the withdrawal of all military, police and paramilitary forces. Establishment of the time by which the withdrawal must be completed. In addition the verification of the withdrawal (see point 4).

- In parallel to the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces, commitment of UCK (KLA) to stop all conflict and not to change its current deployment.

- Establishment of an international peace force under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations with the principles: robust; no double key; strict rules of engagements.

- Start of work of the international aid organizations in Kosovo as soon as possible, in any case at the latest by the time the Yugoslav forces withdraw.

- Once the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces is complete, deportees and refugees return to Kosovo, and the first reconstruction and rehabilitation measures are carried out.

- Placing of Kosovo under a transitional administration authorized by the United Nations until a final political resolution is achieved.

2. Step 2. Consideration by the Security Council

This agreement should on the same day, or as soon as possible, be turned into a resolution of the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter.

3. Step 3. Implementation

The adoption of the resolution will be communicated to the Belgrade authorities. If the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces begins there will be a 24-hour break in the air strikes. To the extent that this occurs, the break will be extended for the period required for the withdrawal of the forces. If the withdrawal of the forces has been achieved within the required time period the air strikes will be permanently suspended.

In parallel to the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces: implementation of the requirement on UCK (KLA) to cease fire, and not to leave existing positions until the peacekeeping force arrives in Kosovo. At this time the disarming and demilitarization of UCK (KLA) begins.

Before the international peace force has been fully deployed and parallel to the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces, fast, mobile advance forces of the States contributing to the international peace force move successively into Kosovo.

The Kosovo Verification Mission again takes up its verification responsibilities under the new conditions.

Transitional administration authorized by the United Nations.

4. In parallel to this, military safeguarding above Kosovo and outside Kosovo:

- NATO air forces;

- NATO ground forces in the former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia/Albania (strength to be determined)

For these parts of the force rules of engagement must be determined.

5. During implementation of the Security Council resolution:

As quickly as possible, in any case at the latest with the arrival of the advance forces of the international peace force in Kosovo, the international aid organizations begin their work.

6. At the same time as the achievement of the Yugoslav troop withdrawal:

Start of return of deportees and refugees.

Start of the first reconstruction and rehabilitation measures.